



Human Relations Commission
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Tucson Human Relations Commission MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tucson Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn P. Howell on **Thursday, February 21, 2008**, at 5:39 p.m., in the City Attorney's Conference Room, 7th Floor-East, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members Present:

Martha Gabusi Taylor
Joe Yee, Vice Chair
Glenn Howell, Chair
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Treasurer
Al Whitehurst

Representing:

Mayor
Ward 2
Ward 5
Ward 6
GLBT Commission

Members Absent:

Victor Flores

Representing:

Ward 1

Others Present:

Rolanda Mazeika, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2007 and Regular Minutes of September 19, 2007, November 14, 2007, January 9, 2008, and February 13, 2008

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Commissioner Flores absent), to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2007 and Regular Minutes of September 19, 2007, November 14, 2007, January 9, 2008, and February 13, 2008.

3. Chairman's Summary of Current Events – Information Only

Chair Howell welcomed the recent GLBT Commission appointee, Commissioner Whitehurst.

4. Treasurer's Report

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report, with the amendment of the expense for Creative Awards to show as \$311.74.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Khalsa, Taylor, and Whitehurst;
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Flores

Motion passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0 to approve the report as amended.

a. Renewal of annual membership to the Southern Poverty Law Center

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded, to renew the commission's \$55.00 annual membership to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Khalsa, Taylor, and Whitehurst;
Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Flores

Motion passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

5. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates

Commissioner Khalsa announced the Baha'i Vision in Action award banquet was being held on February 23, 2008, *and she planned to attend.* ~~No commissioner planned to attend the event.~~

Commissioner Taylor suggested organizations send invitations to the commission in care of the City Clerk's office rather than sending invitations to individual commission members to ensure all commissioners were informed of upcoming events.

6. Requests for Financial Support

Commissioners discussed amendments to financial support requests and the timing of submissions for funding requests. They concluded amendments to requests would be considered by the commission and would be approved, or not, at the discretion of the commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0, to revise the commission's assistance request form to include a statement indicating recipients of funding were required to identify the commission as a project sponsor in any published and/or publicity material; list the general, school, and church mailing lists the commission had available; amend the form's language to say, "It is helpful if your request is made **60 days** prior to your event."; indicate on the form that applications could be submitted electronically, by fax, mail, or hand delivery; and direct staff to continue to use the existing assistance form until revisions were made and approved by the commissioners.

Chair Howell requested Ms. Mazeika to inquire on the possibility of posting the assistance form on the City's web site.

Chair Howell also reminded commissioners to advocate for commission involvement in community forums and public relations and collaboration within the current fiscal year. He requested the commissioners look for co-sponsorship opportunities with other organizations to promote the commission's functions and goals. He also reminded commissioners that financial support was not the only type of assistance the commission had to offer.

a. Culture of Peace Alliance – City at Peace

Commissioner Khalsa announced the Culture of Peace Alliance had modified their request to exclude the request for funds as they were seeking City funding from the Mayor and Council. She also announced she would recuse herself from voting on this item as she was personally involved with this organization.

It was moved by Vice Chair Yee, duly seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 4 to 0 (Commissioner Khalsa recused), to approve the use of the commission's mailing list, including its school mailing list, a letter of support from the Commission, and the use of the commission's name and logo for the Culture of Peace Alliance – City at Peace project.

b. PeaceWalk Tucson Request for Assistance

It was moved by Commissioner Whitehurst, duly seconded, to approve the request for \$200.00, the use of the commission's school and church mailing lists, a letter of support from the commission, and use of the commission's name and logo for the 5th Annual Muslim-Jewish Peace Walk.

Commissioner Khalsa announced she would recuse herself from voting on this item as she was personally involved with this organization.

Chair Howell asked for a roll call vote. Upon roll call, the results were:

Aye: Commissioners Taylor and Whitehurst; Vice Chair Yee and Chair Howell

Nay: None

Recused: Commissioner Khalsa

Absent: Commissioner Flores

Motion passed by a roll call vote of 4 to 0.

c. ITZABOUTIME Request for Assistance

Commissioner Khalsa announced this item was retracted as the organization had already received City funds from the Mayor and Council.

7. Goals

a. Ray Davies Awards Dinner

Commissioner Taylor announced the Ray Davies Award Subcommittee would meet on February 29, 2008, at 3:30 p.m. She announced nomination letters and forms had been sent to Tucson-area high schools. She added she was waiting for a response from the Mayor's office regarding the Mayor's attendance at the event.

Chair Howell announced he was also seeking a keynote speaker for the event.

Ms. Mazeika announced Steve Alley, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona was available to speak at the event.

Commissioner Taylor requested Ms. Mazeika revise the commission's organization mailing list to include funding recipients from the last three years. She also requested the commission's master mailing list be reviewed to select appropriate invitation recipients and noted former commissioners from the last five years, and current Mayor and Council members should be included on the invitation list.

Commissioner Taylor also indicated she would like to participate in the opening ceremony. She also noted the program and media release should be revised to include information on, and solicitations for, the Rosa Parks Scholarship program.

b. Awards

Chair Howell announced he and Commissioner Flores were working on a plan to revive the Stanley Feldman and Rabbi Bilgray Awards. He said they might solicit nominations from social service agencies and non-profit organizations and make presentation of these awards at a Mayor and Council meeting. He said he would return in March with a status report.

c. Volunteer Interns

Vice Chair Yee reported he and Commissioner Khalsa had met with Rebecca Partin from the City Clerk's office and announced the commission could have four, non-voting advisory members appointed by Chair Howell. He announced any commissioner could solicit volunteers. The non-voting advisory members would be able to participate in meetings but cannot vote and could potentially replace voting members if vacancies occurred.

Chair Howell suggested the commission seek social studies students or classes to fill these positions and asked if the positions had to be filled by adults.

Martha Taylor suggested if the commission had to appoint adult members, they could seek students from Pima Community College.

Chair Howell said the non-voting advisory members could work at commission events and conduct organizational duties.

Chair Howell requested Ms. Mazeika send clarification to the commissioners, prior to the March 2008 meeting, on the number of allowable non-voting advisory members and whether non-voting advisory members had to be adults.

d. Community Forums

(This item considered in conjunction with Item 7e)

Chair Howell requested the commissioners look for co-sponsorship opportunities with other organizations to promote the commission's functions and goals. He also asked commissioners to remind organizations requesting assistance that the commission would appreciate reciprocal assistance in its functions.

Commissioner Khalsa ~~added~~ *noted* Leondra Price, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, had assisted the commission in the past and could be a resource to meet these goals.

e. Public Relations and Collaboration

(This item considered in conjunction with Item 7d)

8. Discuss Composition and Purpose of Subcommittees

Chair Howell reminded commissioners to bring subcommittee recommendations to the full commission for approval. He asked subcommittee members to be prepared to give a report, but not to expect discussion, at full commission meetings as any discussion should be made during the subcommittee meetings. The full commission should be able to approve subcommittee recommendations without further discussion.

9. Reports from Other Commissions

a. Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Issues

Commissioner Whitehurst reported:

- The GLBT Commission and Tucson Women's Commission were working with Tucson Fire Department on recent issues of discrimination.
- The Mayor and Council had approved domestic partner healthcare benefits for all couples.
- The GLBT Commission was urging the Mayor and Council lobby the State Legislature for Employment Non-Discrimination legislation for protected classes.
- The GLBT Commission was urging the Mayor and Council to support medically accurate, sexual education classes for teenagers. He noted Governor Napolitano had recently rejected federal funding for abstinence only classes.

1. Appoint new liaison

Chair Howell, current HRC appointee to the GLBT commission, indicated he was unable to regularly attend the GLBT commission meetings due to time conflicts. He invited any of the current commissioners to assume the appointment, and mentioned this might be an appropriate assignment for a future commissioner. He added until another commissioner voiced his or her interest, he would continue as the commission's GLBT commission appointee.

10. Call to Audience

This item was not considered.

11. Future Agenda Items – Information Only

Vice Chair Yee requested a report on commission vacancies. Chair Howell requested Ms. Mazeika send him contact information for those wards who had not appointed members to the HRC and he would give a status report at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment 7:00 p.m.